

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
MILD/MODERATE DISABILITY (GRADES K-12)**
(WITH CERTIFICATES IN MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, LEARNING DISABLED, BEHAVIORAL DISORDERED,
PHYSICAL AND OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS, AND CROSS-CATEGORICAL DISABILITIES)
CERTIFICATES IN MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, LEARNING DISABLED, BEHAVIORAL DISORDERED, AND
PHYSICAL AND OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS WILL BE DISCONTINUED AUGUST 15, 2005

SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJORS

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E. Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F. Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
 - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
 - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
 - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of professional preparation. Competency must be demonstrated in each topic listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

A. Foundations for Teaching (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. Foundations of Education;
- 2. Psychology of Learning;
- 3. Screening and Identification of Children with Disabilities;
- 4. School Organization and Management;
- 5. Introduction to Special Education;
- 6. Personalized Teaching Strategies; and
- 7. Self Awareness and Human Relations;

Required Course work:

- 1. **Child Psychology/Child Growth and Development;
- 2. **Adolescent Psychology/Adolescent Growth and Development;
- 3. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
- 4. *Transition/Career Education for the Handicapped; and
- 5. *Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in the interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive teaching);

For a certificate in specific areas of special education, one (1)-two (2) hour course per certificate is required:

- 1. *Introduction to Mentally Handicapped;
- 2. *Introduction to Learning Disabilities;
- 3. *Introduction to Behavioral Disordered;

**Required courses of at least two (2) semester hours unless otherwise specified.*

***One (1) combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

4. *Introduction to Physical and Other Health Impairments; and
5. *Introduction to Cross-Categorical Disabilities;

B. Teaching Methods (Minimum requirement of twenty-five (25) semester hours):

As a minimum, the teaching method competencies shall include: Children's Literature, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies to include Geography and Economics, Art, Music, Physical Education, School Health, and Microcomputer Application in Education.

Required Course work:

1. *Methods of Teaching Reading—eight (8) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial reading);
2. *Methods of Teaching Mathematics—five (5) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial mathematics);
3. *Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
4. *Counseling Techniques (to include communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children); and
5. *Behavior Management Techniques;

For a certificate in specific areas of special education, one (1)-two (2) hour course per certificate is required:

1. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Mental Handicaps;
2. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Learning Disabilities;
3. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Behavioral Disorders;
4. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Physical and Other Health Impairments; and/or
5. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Cross-Categorical Disabilities; and

C. Clinical Experiences*** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

A minimum of two (2) semester hours of field experiences prior to student teaching and a minimum of eight (8) semester hours of student teaching in a specific area of special education is required.

For a certificate in a specific area of special education, the student teaching experience must provide opportunities with children representative of the certificate:

1. Teaching Students with Mental Handicaps;
2. Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities;
3. Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders;
4. Teaching Students with Physical and Other Health Impairments; and/or
5. Teaching Students with Cross-Categorical Disabilities; and

The Clinical Experience requirements shall provide an opportunity for:

1. Instruction of students with disabilities;
2. Interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures; and
3. Practical application of behavior management.

**Required courses of at least two (2) semester hours unless otherwise specified.*

***One (1) combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

****Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum Deaf and Hearing Impaired students.*

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ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION MAJORS

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must hold a valid Missouri elementary, middle school, or secondary teaching certificate.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Foundations for Teaching:

1. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
2. **Child Psychology/Child Growth and Development;
3. **Adolescent Psychology/Adolescent Growth and Development;
4. *Transition/Career Education for the Handicapped; and
5. *Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive teaching);

For a certificate in specific areas of special education, one (1)-two (2) hour course per certificate is required:

1. *Introduction to Mentally Handicapped;
2. *Introduction to Learning Disabilities;
3. *Introduction to Behavioral Disordered;
4. *Introduction to Physical and Other Health Impairments; and
5. *Introduction to Cross-Categorical Disabilities;

B. Teaching Methods:

1. *Methods of Teaching Reading—eight (8) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial reading);
2. *Methods of Teaching Mathematics—five (5) semester hours (shall include course work in teaching remedial mathematics);
3. *Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
4. *Behavior Management Techniques; and
5. *Counseling Techniques (to include communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children);

For a certificate in specific areas of special education, one (1)-two (2) hour course per certificate is required:

1. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Mental Handicaps;
2. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Learning Disabilities;
3. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Behavioral Disorders;
4. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Physical and Other Health Impairments; and/or
5. *Methods of Teaching the Student with Cross-Categorical Disabilities; and

**Required courses of at least two (2) semester hours unless otherwise specified.*

***One (1) combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

****Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum Deaf and Hearing Impaired students.*

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C. Clinical Experiences*** (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

For a certificate in a specific area of special education, the clinical experiences must provide opportunities with children representative of the certificate:

1. Teaching Students with Mental Handicaps;
2. Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities;
3. Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders;
4. Teaching Students with Physical and Other Health Impairments; and/or
5. Teaching Students with Cross-Categorical Disabilities; and

The Clinical Experience requirements shall provide an opportunity for:

1. Instruction of student with disabilities;
2. Interpretation of individualized tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures; and
3. Practical application of behavior management.

Experienced teachers with two (2) or more years of teaching experience may meet this requirement with three (3) semester hours.